

# imprints

The Newsletter of Literacy BC

## Celebrating Families and Learning – National Family Literacy Week in BC

### *Greetings colleagues and friends:*

Happy New Year 2000 from all of us at Literacy BC! May the year bring you health, happiness and exciting possibilities.....

The focus of this special issue of Imprints is to celebrate family literacy in our province. As many of you know, January 27, 2000 has been officially proclaimed by the government of B.C, along with many mayors, as Family Literacy Day. We have included copies of the provincial and City of Kelowna proclamations on the following page.

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and Literacy BC will launch the second annual Family Literacy Day on January 27, 2000, to celebrate the many successes and promote awareness of the value of family literacy. Sponsored by Honda Canada and celebrated in communities across BC and Canada, Family Literacy Day spotlights the fact that learning is a family affair and that the family is the change agent in breaking the intergenerational cycle of low literacy.

A focus on family literacy is an important new dimension of the literacy movement in Canada. To date, the movement has paid particular attention to remedial work with adults. Family literacy

emphasizes early intervention and prevention with children, at the same time creating opportunities for children and parents

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### *Inside:*

- ...Celebrating Families
- ...Family Literacy Week
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- ...National News



Celebrate  
Family Literacy Day  
January 27



FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Sponsored by

**HONDA**



## Celebrating Families

(cont'd)...

to learn together. A growing body of research indicates a strong literacy correlation between parent and child. The educational background of the parent influences the child's initial study habits, and in the pre-school years, parents can have a powerful influence on the reading ability of their children. Academic success is not determined by socio-economic status, but rather by what parents do to help their children learn.

Family Literacy programs help establish and entrench the value of literacy in every family, by helping parents and educators understand that the home is the child's first learning environment and the parent or primary care-giver is the child's first and most influential teacher. The more literate a parent or primary caregiver becomes, the more able they are to provide a home environment that effectively supports the child's educational development and well-being. To date, there are more than 60 family literacy programs and services in British Columbia, and the numbers are growing. This issue celebrates the valuable work

being done in six of these programs. We have also included examples of what programs have planned for family literacy day and week. Literacy BC, in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver School Board, will celebrate Family Literacy Day with a

kick-off breakfast, which we have called Family Literacy 2000 "Breakfast of Champions". More than 50 key representatives from government, business, labour, unions, education and community

*Continued on page three...*



  
Lieutenant Governor

### Canada Province of British Columbia A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

#### **To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting**

WHEREAS improving the reading, writing and other basic literacy skills of all British Columbians is vital to our social and economic development as a Province, and

WHEREAS research shows the strong influence parents have on the literacy development of their children, and

WHEREAS family literacy programs ensure that very young children will have the best possible environment for getting a head start on literacy learning, and

WHEREAS Our Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct by Order in Council in that behalf that a Proclamation be issued designating January 27, 2000, as "Family Literacy Day" in the Province of British Columbia.

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that January 27, 2000, shall be known as

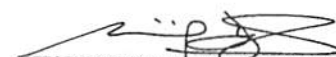
#### **"Family Literacy Day"**

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS The Honourable Garde B. Gardom, Q.C., Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this third day of December, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine and in the forty-eighth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR  
MULTICULTURALISM, HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION

## Celebrating Families and Learning (cont'd)...

organizations will attend. For more details see page 12, for a summary of Family Literacy Week in the Lower Mainland.

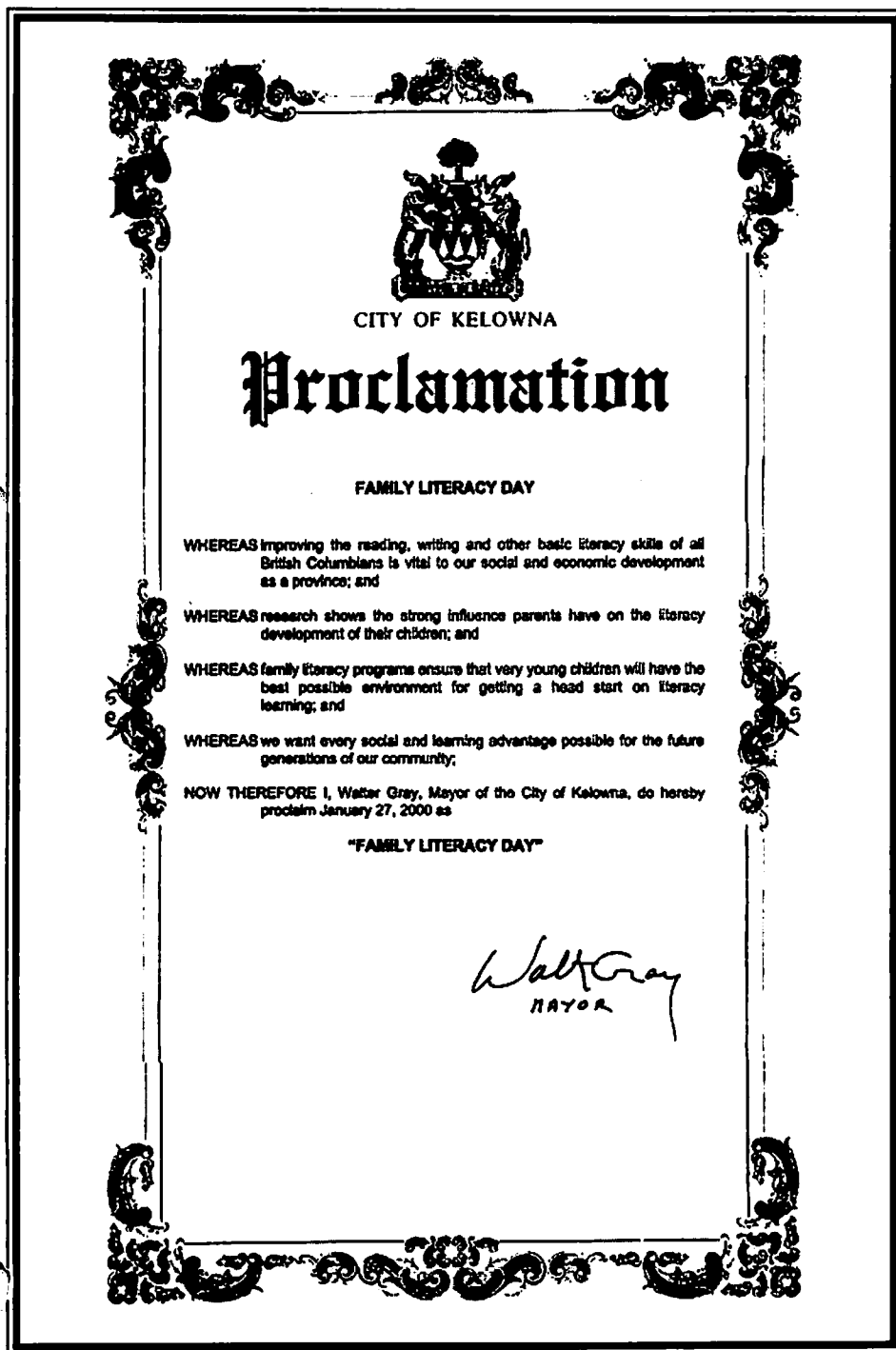
We would like to extend a special thanks to all family literacy practitioners and the parents and children who participate in family literacy

programs, for their dedication, tireless efforts and ability to do exemplary work on a "shoestring". Without your vision and tenacity the family literacy movement as we know it would grind to a halt. We salute you! Keep up the great work!

We would also like to thank our partners, supporters and sponsors of Family Literacy Day/Week in British Columbia. They are: The Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver School Board, ABC CANADA, Honda Canada, Starbucks Coffee Company, the Grizzlies Foundation, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, the National Literacy Secretariat, the Maytree Foundation, Windows of Opportunity for Vancouver's Children and Youth, Scholastic Books, the Youth Community Action Students - Capilano College Program and McIvor Communications Inc.

Best wishes to all and have a fabulous Family Literacy Day 2000.

Warm regards,  
**Paul Gallagher**  
*President, Literacy BC*





# Celebrating

Families  
and Learning

in B. C.

*Innovative and exciting family literacy programs and services continue to grow in B.C. Here are some examples.*

## At Kiwassa Neighbourhood House ...

in Vancouver an innovative new program this year is the **Parent to Parent Action Research Project**. This program in the Hastings-Sunrise area links Kiwassa with parent-volunteers through the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) of the local Tillicum Elementary school.

The goal of the project is to determine whether training parents as volunteers will help address the family literacy issues facing this particular east-side Vancouver community. The area served by Kiwassa is a multi-ethnic neighbourhood made up of single parent families and the working poor. When fully up and running, the project will train parents as family literacy facilitators to work with other parents and caregivers and conduct parent-child workshops.

The approximately 15

families who now participate include babies of 18 months to children of kindergarten and elementary school age and represent "every multicultural and ethnic group in the neighbourhood." The team at Kiwassa has developed nine different workshops for parents since the project began in mid-October, including child and infant massage, T'ai Chi, children's first aid, learning disabilities, and a small workshop on basic computing, activities chosen by the parents.

The program is coordinated by Carol Schoen, who, in addition to the Kiwassa project, works at the Carnegie Learning Centre and teaches fundamental ABE at Capilano College. Carol got involved because of her connection with Carnegie where she is now in her third year. This is her first year doing family literacy, which she says is "the right fit" for her.

"Kiwassa is a dynamic neighbourhood house with

*Continued next page..*

## Honda Canada 1999 Space Odyssey Car Play Kit Program

*We are happy to announce that Literacy BC will distribute \$15,000 to more than 20 Family Literacy Programs in B.C. These funds were raised and donated by Honda Canada, through their 1999 Space Odyssey Car Play Kit program. The successful programs will be notified by mail in early February. Thanks to everyone who applied and keep up the great work!*

*On behalf of family literacy programs and services in B.C., we would like to once again extend our gratitude to Honda Canada for their generous contribution and exemplary efforts over the past year.*



# Celebrating

Families  
and Learning

in B. C.

## **Kiwassa Neighbourhood House (cont'd)...**

lots of services for the community," says Carol. (Kiwassa, meaning "Little Sister," was founded by the wives and daughters of Kiwanis, and recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.) For people with children or grandchildren, the agency offers quality day care, learning opportunities and support from other parents. "Kiwassa already had Mother Goose and some after-school programs as well as a Family Place drop-in and a daycare. What was missing was a program element for early primary school children." The PAC from Tillicum approached Kiwassa with the need and applied for funding, partnering with Capilano College. Carol says Kiwassa's approach to enlisting families to participate was: "You are the families who live in the community. Tell us what you need – what would work for you. As well, we wanted to ensure an even representation from each multi-ethnic group."

In addition to Carol who coordinates the program's training needs, three Youth Community Action (Youth Options B.C.) students assist Hydi Sham, Coordinator of Kiwassa Family Place, with the children's programming throughout the week.

Carol says a vital factor in the program's success is the participation of Tillicum school PAC representative, Conrad Lew. "He helps bring in other fathers and encourages their interest. There are four men who attend the program regularly, because the PAC representative is male." They have already invited the parents to a special meeting to ask what kinds of activities they want to see next year.

"The reason for our success – considering the project just began in mid-October – is because Kiwassa is a community," says Carol. "The goal is to develop a small, cohesive parent group who will take the lead in keeping the program going. Already, the spin-off has been quite high, with friends of friends passing information about us around the neighbourhood."

## **In the Okanagan...**

The **Cooperative Family Reading** project continues at the **Penticton Family Centre** where Kelly Moog, with Nancy Noble Hearle, Regional Literacy Coordinator (Okanagan University College) heads up the program. The program is available to parents, grandparents and caregivers of pre-school and school-age children – a change from last year when it was limited to pre-school. The other big change, says Nancy, is that it is now a Drop-In, instead of separate 8-week sessions throughout the school year.

### **At the drop-in:**

- Parents and children work together on various activities – reading, storytelling, finger plays and discussion of books
- An adult education instructor is available for the parents for help with reading, writing, creative problem solving and motivational skills
- Both parents and children can participate in a children's program with crafts, games and reading activities

*Continued on next page..*

# Celebrating Families and Learning

in B. C.

## **Co-operative Family Reading (cont'd)...**

Some of the parents are students at the College, others come by referral, and some have links to the Family Centre. Everyone is welcome.

The secret of their success, says Nancy, is, "A lot of the crafts and games are simple and practical, using odds and ends the parents can bring from home. Practical day-to-day things – whatever they might have around the house. We try to model what happens in the home. We use what's realistic for the parents – and we tackle parenting issues, during the shared reading time and one-on-one.

"Another feature of the program is that we duplicate the reality of what reading at home to your kids is actually like. There are parents with babies, small children and six and seven year olds, all at once. Reading with babies and balancing a six or seven year old on your knee – that's the reality. A lot of the parents are in this situation – they have children with a big age difference. "

"And because the program is based in the Family Centre at the Resources Society, the parents also have the option of accessing the other programs available there – such as parenting classes – or the mums can just meet and mingle with each other at a drop-in over coffee. "

For Family Literacy Day, Nancy plans to arrange "a gathering of people who do children's programs in the community – a getting together to share ideas and resources."

## **In North Vancouver...**

The **Family Focus Project** at Capilano College in **North Vancouver** is now in its third year. This is a family literacy program that integrates parents' academic work into their family life. It was originally designed primarily for parents on income assistance who were unable to return to school because of a lack of daycare. (Parents are no longer required to be on income assistance to attend the program).

The program combines classroom/course work with

a family focus time. Parents attend the Family Focus program two days a week and on other days they are free to attend classes and have study time. Their children are cared for separately in the on-campus childcare centre where they are engaged in a variety of activities, over the week. The parents may participate in these activities during the family focus time or may use the time to discuss personal issues with a counselor or parenting strategies with the childcare instructor.

"We try to fill in the things that parents have a tough time accessing," explains Sue Wallster, Program Coordinator. "That is, we may focus on parenting, literacy issues, or just on the person. In class, it's a combination of topics that interest the parents and an opportunity to make a connection with other parents and get support in a different way."

Sue works closely with the teachers in the program. "We may talk about reading together, or about child

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# Celebrating

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## North Vancouver (cont'd)...

development. We encourage a lot of creativity, and try to look at all the options for the parent. Sometimes we bring in instructors from the Early Childhood Education program on campus, to discuss topics such as assertiveness and communication with your child. Our focus is really to try to integrate the parents' academic life with their family life.

Asked the reason for the program's success, Sue says: "Our program creates an opportunity for parents to safely connect with others, and with the people taking care of their children – to see them as part of a team. The parents have been isolated – here, they are doing something for themselves and for their child. They make it successful.

There are a lot of the things to deal with when you're a single parent. – figuring out the college system, along with being on social assistance – and sometimes there are cultural issues – English as a Second Language – so it's difficult."

## In the Courtenay/Comox area of Vancouver Island...

**C.A.L.L.S.** (Community Adult Literacy and Learning Society) has been actively involved in promoting family literacy for three years.

One very popular program is **Born to Read** launched in January 1999. Parents of newborns, through the Born to Read program, receive a gift book bag to promote the idea of reading, rhyming and singing to their children. The canvas book bag includes a book, T-shirt, a Read-Aloud Guide for parents, a list of books developed by the Vancouver Island Regional Library suitable for babies and toddlers, and information on local family resources. The project is funded by Rotary & Soroptomist Clubs, the Comox Valley Credit Union and Overwaitea Food and Drugs. C.A.L.L.S. Family Literacy Coordinator Judy Brooks says **Born to Read** receives strong support from the Public Health nursing staff who do the distribution of the book bag. "Our funders continue to

support us and the program remains very popular with new mothers."

## Leap into Books/Storybook Tent-in-the-Mall...

brings family literacy to local shoppers with a Reading Tent at the Driftwood Mall on scheduled Saturdays or Sundays during the winter. People are invited to "take time out from their shopping" to join in reading stories to their children, or be read to by volunteer students. ESL families are invited to hear stories read in English. This year C.A.L.L.S. has two Youth Community Action (YCA) students from Vanier High School participating in the program at the mall, which runs from October '99 to March 2000.

## Homework Clubs...

C.A.L.L.S. has succeeded in establishing this program in the local School District. In cooperation with participating schools and Parent Advisory Councils, clubs are organized using *The Peanut Butter & Jelly Guide to Organizing a Homework Club* from Frontier College.

*Continued on next page..*

# Celebrating

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*Courtenay/Comox (cont'd)...*

## **The Stone Soup**

### **Neighbourhood Drop-In...**

is an outreach project developed by a coalition of Comox Valley service providers and community agencies for parents and their pre-school children. The project incorporates family literacy into the wide range of services already offered to a population of culturally diverse families, including some single parents living in isolation and poverty. The drop-in is located in a high-density neighbourhood and provides easy access to programs and services to families with children aged birth to five years. "Our focus is the school readiness of families," says Judy.



## **In the East Kootenay Region (Golden)...**

Judy McLaren, one of six regional Family Literacy Coordinators, runs a **Families in Motion Program** through the Golden Community Resource Society.

Through Families in Motion, parents attend self-paced upgrading classes at the College of the Rockies while their children are cared for at a nearby daycare. The program is open to families with children aged three to five. A parent and child together time is also incorporated into the program. The program has recently switched from three mornings a week (M-W-F) to two mornings a week with an added parent/child Mother Goose session on Fridays.

There are seven families involved with more expected to join. All parents work part time as well as attend school part time.

Judy says the program succeeds "because it taps into services that are already there in the

community. There are no tuition costs at the college (most of the parents are enrolled in Fundamental level ABE) and the program funds the extras such as books, supplies, and even, if necessary, additional daycare expenses for some of the parents."

Judy has big plans for celebrating Family Literacy Day. This year, she has decided "to get all the schools on board." She has sent a letter to local elementary and secondary schools requesting teachers to get each of their classes to read a story for 15 minutes on January 27. She particularly wants to encourage them to read Canadian authors.

"I am positive we will get an incredible response from the schools," says Judy, "The teachers in this community really support what we are doing."

She has personally asked the mayor to proclaim Family Literacy Day in the community.

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# Celebrating

Families  
and Learning

in B. C.

## Selkirk Region (West Kootenays)...

West Kootenay family literacy programs are centred in Castlegar, Trail, Nelson, Nakusp, Grand Forks, and New Denver. This year there are programs running at full capacity with waiting lists in all six communities.

Some examples:

- In **Grand Forks**, "Books Without Boundaries", an innovative program running in the Grand Forks Public Library, has moved books from the library to various community agencies and centres to make them

more accessible to all members of the community.

- In **Nelson's** "Family Night Out" program, the whole family is invited to come to a local community school on Wednesday nights for an evening of sharing books, stories, activities, games and fun.
- LAPP (Literacy and Parent Partnership Program), Mother Goose programs and Home Work Clubs are operating throughout the region as well. Learning and Family Fun – "LAFF" – is popular in many communities.
- Selkirk Regional Coordinator Jennifer Cliff-Marks says, "Family Literacy Week will be an opportunity to feel proud of the hard work and commitment of all the families involved in our programs, the coordinators and volunteers, our partners, and Board of Directors that make Project Literacy West Kootenay thrive."

## Learners Educational Action Research Network (LEARN) to Interview the Field

*The **Learners Educational Action Research Network** is a group of adult learners who are researching how to build and sustain a network for literacy learners in B.C. The project is funded by the 1999/2000 B.C. literacy cost-shared program.*

*The research team is receiving training in research skills and will conduct personal interviews with learners, administrators, instructors, and funders in the field this winter.*

*Team members are:*

*Ingrid Braathen, Comox*

*Kate Nesbitt, Smithers*

*Betty Carter, Vancouver*

*Bonnie Sloat, Langley*

*Wendy Koivisto, Courtenay*

*Ellen Szita, Victoria*

*Sandy Middleton, Project Coordinator, Literacy BC*

*Marina Niks of the University of British Columbia is our research "friend" and trainer.*

*We look forward to meeting and talking to people in the field over the next few months!*

*If you have any questions about the project, please contact Sandy at 1-800-663-1293 or [s\\_middleton@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:s_middleton@douglas.bc.ca).*

# Family Literacy Week

## Regional Round-up...

In some regions of the province **Family Literacy Day** is being extended to a week-long celebration of families and learning.

Community organizations, mayors, local businesses, family literacy practitioners, schools and teachers, children's librarians, family resource programs, and other agencies that work with children and parents will help make this special celebration a success.

Here are some examples of the exciting activities and events happening in the regions....

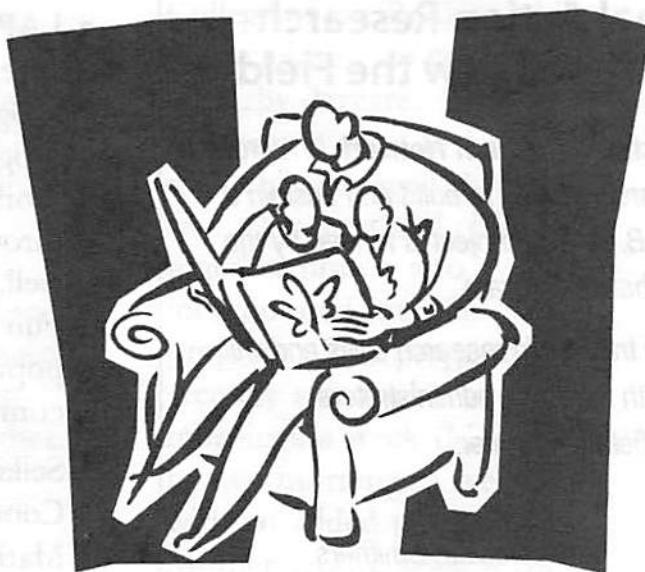
## Terrace

Holly Nguyen, Children's Librarian at the Terrace Public Library is planning a big week to celebrate Family Literacy Day. "Terrace Families Unplugged" is the central focus of the week at the library. Holly is encouraging local families to come and bring the children for game nights, storytelling,

"anything non-electronic". Holly plans to connect with other community groups – perhaps to arrange a free family night at the local swimming pool or the skating rink.

## Revelstoke

Carol Miller, Literacy Coordinator at Okanagan University College (OUC),



will have a booth at the Revelstoke Family Fair on Saturday January 29 to promote new initiatives in family literacy, and adult literacy programs at OUC.

## Penticton

Nancy Noble-Hearle, Okanagan Regional Literacy

Coordinator, has arranged a meeting on Family Literacy Day with agencies involved in children's programming to share ideas and resources and to celebrate the day.

## Courtenay/Comox

The Youth Community Action Students from C.A.L.L.S (the Community Adult Literacy and Learning Society) will hold a book giveaway as part of the Storybook Tent-in-the-Mall project, a regular weekend event at the Driftwood Mall, on the weekend of January 29-30.

## Prince George

Pat Hanki, Cariboo Regional Literacy Coordinator, and the Prince George Public Library will host a Family Literacy Night on January 27. Hundreds of families turned out for last year's event, and everyone is looking forward to this year's celebration. A local mall display over two days organized by library volunteers will feature a books area with space for families to stop by, chat with volunteers and read.

*Continued on next page..*

# Family Literacy Week

## Golden

Judy MacLaren, Family Literacy Coordinator with the Families in Motion program, has arranged the following events:

- students in local elementary and secondary schools will read a story for 15 minutes on January 27
- a Story Time evening featuring the Golden Players, a local drama group, and a literacy display at the library
- week-long literacy-related window displays at bookstores and family agencies. Local businesses are also encouraged to join in the "Plaque Campaign" – in exchange for a \$100 donation, they receive a wooden plaque declaring them as a proud sponsor of the Golden Family Literacy Campaign.

## Northern B.C.

Donna Kane, Northern Lights Regional Literacy Coordinator, is organizing a bookbag raffle throughout the region — in Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Dease Lake and

Atlin. Each area will also hold its own individual events.

In **Dawson Creek**, the public library plans an open house on Tuesday, January 25 from 7 - 9 p.m. The evening features stories, poems, music and refreshment. Mayor Blair Lekstrom will read the proclamation for Family Literacy Day. Donna Kane, Leanne Ryz, Coordinator of the Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills program in Dawson Creek; Theresa Gladue, from the Dawson Creek Aboriginal Women's Awareness Resource Society; and the Dawson Creek Literacy Society will attend.

In **Atlin**, the Atlin Community Network is

working with Northern Lights College and the Community Library to host an open house for the community on Family Literacy Day. Families are invited to the library for stories, prizes, games, food and information about the college literacy program.

## Fraser Lake

Gloria Olafson, at the Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre has organized a Walk for Literacy at 7 p.m. on January 27. The whole community is invited to come and walk around Fraser Lake to raise money to buy books for local libraries. Hot chocolate, snacks and storytelling will follow.

## Notice to programs and practitioners: 2000/01 literacy cost-shared funding forms

*The application package for the 2000-01 Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Grants supported by the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT) can be downloaded from the MAETT website.*

*The address is: [www.aett.gov.bc.ca/literacy](http://www.aett.gov.bc.ca/literacy). The description of current literacy projects is also on the website.*

*The packages are also available from Literacy BC. Call 1-800-663-1293.*

**Note: the application deadline is February 29, 2000.**



# Family Literacy Week

Here's what's happening Family Literacy Week in the Lower Mainland – January 24 - 29

## Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

Vancouver Public Library,  
Central Branch, Alma Van  
Dusen & Peter Kaye Rooms,  
Lower level

### Literacy and Early Brain Development Workshop

9:30 – 10 am – registration  
& coffee

Early Brain Development and  
Population Health – *Clyde  
Hertzman*

10 – 12 noon

Early Literacy Development:  
Theory into Practice – *Mary  
Gordon*

1 – 5pm

## Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

Vancouver School Board, 1580 West Broadway, Room 400

**Early Development Indicator: *Readiness to Learn***

9:30 - 11:30 am

Kindergarten Teachers Orientation (Closed session)

**Roots of Empathy**

11:45 - 12:45 pm (Closed session)

**Early Development Indicator: *Readiness to Learn***

1:00 - 3:00 pm (Closed session)

Kindergarten Teachers Orientation

**Roots of Empathy: *Awareness Session***

Room 102

3:45 - 5:00 pm (Open to public – no registration required)

## Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

Vancouver Public Library – Central Branch,  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room

**Family Literacy Day 2000 "Breakfast of Champions"**

8:30 - 9:30 am - (Invitation only)

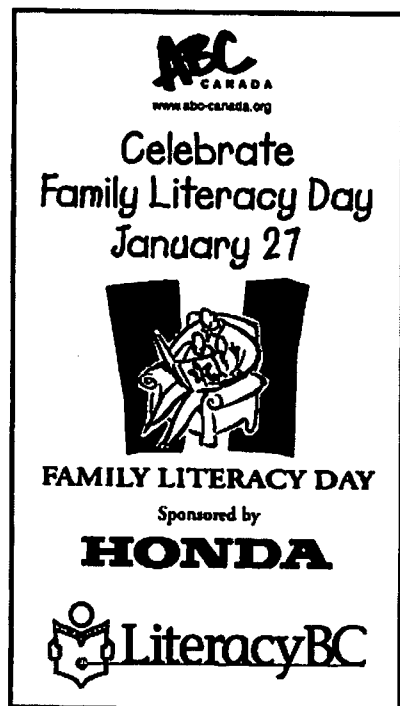
Sponsored by Literacy BC, the Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver School Board. This event will bring together more than 50 key representatives from government, business, labour, unions, education and community organizations. The following speakers will give short presentations on the work they are doing as it relates to families and literacy:

**Carol Matusicky**, Executive Director, B.C. Council for Families

**Max Cynader**, Director, Brain and Spinal Cord Research Centre (Vancouver Hospital & Health Sciences Centre and The University of British Columbia)

**Mary Gordon**, Administrator, Parent and Family Literacy Program, Toronto District School Board

**BRAIN**  
Research Centre  
Vancouver Hospital & Health Sciences Centre  
and The University of British Columbia



# Family Literacy Week

**Thursday, January 27th (cont'd)**

**Celebrating Families & Learning**

7:30 - 9pm

Vancouver Public Library-  
Central Branch, Alice  
McKay Room, Lower level  
(Open to public – no  
registration required)

**Roots of Empathy**

10:30 – Noon

Vancouver/Richmond  
Health Board – 2610  
Victoria Drive  
(Closed session)

**Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, Alice McKay  
Room, lower level

**Read Together Day**

The Grizzlies will present 50 “Spinoza Bears” to the children,  
parents and teachers of 10 inner city schools. This event will  
bring together more than 300  
participants

11:45 am – 5pm  
(closed session)

Starbucks Coffee Company will supply  
refreshments at many of the events over  
the week.



**Friday,  
January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Vancouver School Board  
1580 West Broadway,  
Room 400

**Early Development Indicator:  
Readiness to Learn**

9:00 - 11:30 am

(Closed session)

Kindergarten Teachers  
Orientation

**Early Development Indicator:  
Readiness to Learn**

1:00 - 3:00 pm

(Closed session)

Kindergarten Teachers  
Orientation



Vancouver Public Library

## Other activities happening over the week.....

**The National Family  
Literacy Directory...**

will be launched Canada wide online January 27, 2000, at  
[www.nald.ca/famlit](http://www.nald.ca/famlit)

**The Grizzlies Woodland Creatures**

Puppets with charm, will also be “on hand” at various  
branches of the Vancouver Public Library. Local VPL  
branches will hold regular **Story Time** events.

## Family Literacy

# Update on National Developments...

The Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being is a national initiative of Health Canada, Childhood and Youth Division, Health Promotions and Programs.

## Live & Learn Together Tips

- **Start Early** - It's never too early to read to your children.
- **Make Every day a Learning Day** - Ask your kids to help you make a shopping list. Read recipes with them and cook up a storm.
- **No place Like Home** - Create a special cozy reading place for your children and their books.
- **Every Place is a Learning Place** - For kids and families on the go, create a travel kit of books, newspapers, magazines, pencils, markers and paper for use in the car, bus or subway.
- **Keep Teens Reading** - Give your teens books, newspaper articles and magazines about things that interest them.
- **Stay Involved** - Go to meet-the-teacher nights at school.
- **The Family that Reads Together LEARNS Together** - Write down your children's stories and talk to them about their ideas.
- **Do First by Example** - Enroll in a course like music or crafts and encourage them to do the same.

The mandate of the Centres of Excellence to ensure that important knowledge about children and their healthy development is distributed broadly among families, community-based organizations, educators, health professionals and government decision-makers. The goal is to improve government's understanding of children and what they need to develop in healthy ways.

Up to five Centres of Excellence will be created over the next year. Each Centre will operate over a five year period and each Centre will work on one of the following five issues:

- Early child development
- Youth engagement
- Children and adolescents with special needs
- Effective parenting
- Child and youth - centred communities

## First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition...

First Call – a coalition of more than 50 B.C. organizations, community groups and individuals who promote legislation, policy and practice on behalf of children, youth and families – has submitted a letter of intent for a Centre of Excellence on Early Childhood Development to be located in B.C. If they are successful in the letter of intent, they will be invited to write a proposal which must be submitted by March 2000.

*For more information on the Centres of Excellence and the activities of First Call, contact*

**First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition**

Cindy Carson, Coordinator

L408 - 4480 Oak Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3V4

Phone: (604) 875-3629

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[www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org)





## Focus on Literacy

# Upcoming Conferences

### **The Early Years: Supporting Families and Young Children** *January 28-29, 2000*

Coast Plaza Suite Hotel at Stanley Park, Vancouver

Featured speakers include

- Dyan Dunsmore-Farley, Assistant Deputy Minister, Governmental Relations Division, Ministry for Children and Families
- Joyce Preston, Child, Youth and Family Advocate
- Cindy Carson, Provincial Coordinator, First Call: B.C. Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

Registration will be available at the door.

For information:  
(604) 822-6156 or  
1-800-663-0348 (toll-free in B.C.)

### **Designing Our Future Women's learning, Education, and Training in Canada: 2000 and Beyond**

A Congress to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women (CCLOW)

*March 2 - 5, 2000, Toronto*

For more information, visit the conference website:  
<http://www.nald.ca/canorg/cclow/congress.htm>

or contact Eileen Page  
Phone (416) 599-2854  
Fax: (416) 599-5605  
Email: [cclow@web.net](mailto:cclow@web.net)

### **Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages**

#### **TESOL 2000: Navigating the New Millennium**

The 34th Annual Convention and Exposition

*March 14-18, 2000*

The Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre

All information on the conference is available from the TESOL website at:

[www.tesol.edu](http://www.tesol.edu)

Or contact: TESOL Programs  
Vancouver Community College

Phone: (604) 443-8484

Fax: (604) 443-8393

Email: [TESOL@vcc.bc.ca](mailto:TESOL@vcc.bc.ca)

[www.vcc.bc.ca/TESOL](http://www.vcc.bc.ca/TESOL)

### **Kaleidoscope 2000: Innovative Good Practice in Post-Secondary Education**

*April 30, May 1 & 2, 2000*

Vancouver

Co-hosted by the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer & Technology and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology

For a listing of local key contacts and the Kaleidoscope 2000 Planning Committee members visit the C2T2

website: [http://](http://www.ctt.bc.ca/events/)

[www.ctt.bc.ca/events/](http://www.ctt.bc.ca/events/)

Contact: Gillies Malnarich

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Fax: (250) 413-4469

### **What Works! A Literacy Symposium**

*June 2 - 3*

Kalamalka Campus,  
Okanagan University College  
Vernon

A forum for literacy practitioners at the pre-school, K-12 and post-secondary levels, and in the workplace. Presented by OUC and School District No. 22 (Vernon)

Keynote speakers

- CBC personality and broadcaster, Rex Murphy
- Dr. Paul Gallagher, President of Literacy BC

To submit a presentation proposal, contact Carol Abernathy, Conference Co-Chair  
Okanagan University College  
7000 College Way  
Vernon, B.C. V1B 2N5  
Phone: (250) 545-7291  
Email:

[caaberna@ver1.ouc.bc.ca](mailto:caaberna@ver1.ouc.bc.ca)

More information from the conference website at:

[www.ouc.bc.ca](http://www.ouc.bc.ca)



LiteracyBC

# Donor Appreciation

Thank you to the following individuals who have donated \$100 or more to Literacy BC:

Paul Gallagher  
Marnie Crowe  
Alan Dolman  
Tammy Gibson

Judi Angel  
The Book Club  
UFCW Local 2000 Training Centre  
Livingston Employee's Charities

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James Acford  
The Hydrecs Fund  
Joan Jamieson

Judy Wearmouth  
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Lynda Turner

Christine Cooper  
Barbara Bate  
Sharon Forbrigger

A special thank-you to **Select Publications** for the generous donation from the book fair held at City Square last fall.

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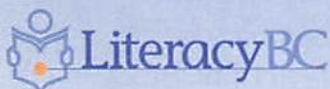


## Literacy Volunteers Needed

*Laubach Literacy of Canada trains tutors then matches them with adults who wish to improve their reading, writing and math skills. Volunteer tutors take a 12-hour workshop, then spend one or two hours per week with a student on a one-to-one basis. The Laubach system of tutoring is ideally suited for motivated learners who have not been successful in classroom situations. Laubach is also seeking executive members for the Vancouver Council and for other centres across B.C. The tasks may include assessing students, matching tutors with students and helping manage a literacy council.*

**For more information, please call:**

**Jerry Horne, Field Services Coordinator, B.C. Lower Mainland**  
(604) 263-6606 (Lower Mainland)  
1-800-766-4660 (elsewhere in B.C.)



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